

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

January 9, 2007 - 6:00 PM

Conference Room B

Rockford City Hall

Present: Laura Bachelder, Maureen Flanagan, David Hagney, Mark McInnis, Mike Pauly

Absent : Sally Faber, Ald. Doug Mark

Staff : Ginny Gregory, Lucia Rinedollar

Others: Bill Keith, City of Rockford; Paul Marek, Armory building

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Maureen Flanagan made a **MOTION** to elect Laura Bachelder as Chairman. The Motion was seconded by Mike Pauly and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

Laura Bachelder made a **MOTION** to elect Maureen Flanagan as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Mike Pauly and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Pauly made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the minutes for the meeting of December 12, 2006 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mark McInnis and **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

Certificates of Appropriateness

♦ 314 North Main Street (Coronado Theatre)

Bill Keith explained the application to replace four windows on the second floor of the west (alley) side of the theatre. The sash only will be replaced while the existing original frames will remain. The current sash has "chicken wire" in it but the replacements will be thermopane and will not have the chicken wire.

David Hagney made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** the Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of four windows on the second floor of the west (alley) side of the Coronado Theatre as submitted. Maureen Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

OLD BUSINESS

- ♦ **2007 Schedule** – Due to conflicts in scheduling, the meetings will be changed to the first Tuesday of each month instead of the second; meeting time will remain the same.
- ♦ **College/Seminary Rankings** – No update at this time.

STAFF REPORT

Realtor training – update

No update at this time. Ginny explained the training to the new members – to do a workshop for area realtors that will aid them in understanding how we do what we do – and noted that the goal will now be to do this in November.

Violations

♦ 208 South Second Street

Ginny explained that this is the house on the corner of Second and Walnut Streets where the owner had installed a metal chimney on the side of the house for a wood-burning stove. After some months of discussion with the Commission, he agreed to move it to the roof and was given a Certificate to allow that in June 2006. Upon receipt of a letter in December 2006 informing him that he was in violation of the City's historic preservation ordinance for failure to make the change during the six-months allowed under a COA, the owner of 208 South Second Street called and informed Ginny that his father has had serious health problems which is why he has not been able to correct the violation. Ginny told him she would ask the Commission for an extension.

Maureen Flanagan made a **MOTION to EXTEND** the Certificate of Appropriateness for 208 South Second Street for 30 days. Mike Pauly seconded the Motion which **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

♦ 515 Grove Street

Ginny stated that this is the house that was owned by HUD where they (or someone) had covered a hole in the foundation with chicken wire and built a handrail from the sidewalk up to the property with plain lumber. Although they were notified of the violation, she was never able to get them to bring the property into compliance. This property is now owned by the Erlander Home Museum. Ginny will send a letter to them regarding the violations.

♦ Cell Towers

Ginny received applications for two towers to be reviewed pursuant to the Section 106 process. They are for co-locations, one on Sandy Hollow Road and one on North Bell School Road at Rote Road. The applications are for adding hardware to existing towers. Ginny stated that if the Commission concurred with her assessment that there are no historic resources at either location, she would notify IHPA to that effect. There was general agreement among Commission members to do that.

♦ Satellite dishes

Ginny explained that a “sweep” was done of the five local historic districts in November, resulting in locating 28 satellite dishes installed without a COA. She explained that it had been decided previously that the best way to proceed would be to schedule a special meeting to deal with these at the same time.

Commission members felt that more information was needed before proceeding with a mass violation notice. They also agreed that it would be a good idea to notify the satellite installers of the guidelines to try to entice their cooperation with original installation locations. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Ginny should contact Preservation Commissions in other cities to determine what their guidelines are and how they handle them.

OTHER

♦ Armory Building

Paul Marek addressed the Commission regarding possible renovation of the former National Guard Armory building. He is proposing turning the building into a mixed use with a multi-story hotel, condos and retail space. He would like to go up as much as 14 stories, with parking accessed via the north side. He would keep the exterior as Art Deco as possible, replicating architectural elements at the top of the proposed addition. He would save as much of the interior as possible but would add windows. The stage area would be retained as the hotel lobby.

Ginny explained that IHPA retains review authority for all changes to the building, interior and exterior. She also explained that if State or Federal funds are used compliance with the Section 106 process, and the state equivalent, will be necessary. Regardless of what funding is used, any exterior changes would have to be approved by this Commission.

♦ Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum

Ginny advised everyone that Tinker is having an open house on Thursday, 1/11/07 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm to introduce Beverly Ashley Broyels, Tinker's new Director. She will be replacing Laura Bachelder, or at least trying to.

Maureen Flanagan made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN**. Mike Pauly seconded the motion which **CARRIED** by a vote of **5-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lucia Rinedollar,
Sr. Administrative Assistant
Community Development Department